

From: [Gray, David](#)
To: [Kaplan, Sheila](#)
Cc: [Press](#)
Bcc: [Granttham, Nancy](#); [Bowman, Liz](#); [Abboud, Michael](#); [Wilcox, Jahan](#)
Subject: RE: Clarification - EPA Hurricane Harvey
Date: Monday, September 25, 2017 5:29:00 PM

Hi Sheila,

Forgive the long email response but there is a lot of information available.

On background: I don't think that you need to file a FOIA for our data/information. It is all posted on our website as we receive it.

The first answer is that we did not test general flood water or sediment. It was not necessary because it was known to be contaminated of sewage and other materials like motor oil, household cleaners and lawn chemicals. Here is our statement:

Flood Water: Water quality sampling will be focused on industrial facilities and hazardous waste sites. Floodwaters contain many hazards, including bacteria and other contaminants. Precautions should be taken by anyone involved in cleanup activities or any others who may be exposed to flood waters. These precautions include heeding all warnings from local and state authorities regarding safety advisories. In addition to the drowning hazards of wading, swimming, or driving in swift floodwaters, these waters can carry large objects that are not always readily visible that can cause injuries to those in the water. Other potential hazards include downed power lines and possible injuries inflicted by animals displaced by the floodwaters.

We did sample or directed responsible parties to test the 43 Superfund sites potentially impacted by the storm. A post-hurricane site summary based on preliminary results is posted on our website for each one. Generally, we found that post-hurricane site conditions are similar to historical conditions at each site before the storm made landfall. Only San Jacinto Waste Pits Superfund site is still undergoing an assessment to determine if damage occurred. Final quality assured data takes about two weeks. We are posting those data reports as they arrive. I've embedded the links (below) to save you time looking for them.

Highlands Acid Pits UPDATED 9/16 [here](#).
United Creosoting Company UPDATED 9/16 [here](#).
Conroe Creosoting UPDATED 9/15 [here](#).
Brio UPDATED 9/22 [here](#).
U.S. Oil Recovery [here](#).
Tex Tin [here](#).
Sheridan Disposal Services [here](#).
Dixie Oil Processors [here](#).
Malone Service [here](#).
Crystal Chemical [here](#).
Star Lake Canal [here](#).
MOTCO [here](#).
Sol Lynn/Industrial Transformers [here](#).
Patrick Bayou [here](#).
Gulf States Utilities/North Ryan Street [here](#).
Sikes Disposal Pits [here](#).
Geneva Industries [here](#).
Triangle Chemical Company [here](#).
EVR-Wood Treating/Evangeline Refining [here](#).
Hart Creosoting Company [here](#).
American Creosote - Deridder UPDATE 9/18 [here](#).
Palmer Barge Line [here](#).
Gulf Coast Vacuum Services [here](#).
Harris/Farley Street [here](#).
D.L. Mudd, Inc. [here](#).
San Jacinto Waste Pits [here](#).
Alcoa/Lavaca Bay [here](#).
Jones Road [here](#).
French Unlimited Inc. [here](#).
Gulfco Marine Maintenance [here](#).
Mallard Bay Bulk Plant [here](#).
Brine Service Company [here](#).
Bailey Waste Disposal [here](#).
Falcon Refinery [here](#).
Rustin Foundry [here](#).
PAB Oil & Chemical Services, Inc [here](#).
Many Diversified Interest [here](#).
State Marine Services of Port Arthur [here](#).
South Cavalcade Street [here](#).
North Cavalcade Street [here](#).

We have a several quality assured data packages. I won't list them all but here are a couple of examples Motco Superfund Site

[https://response.epa.gov/sites/12353/files/170908%20MOTCO%20Harvey%20\(Dry%20Weight\)%20I153596-1%20UDS%20Level%20%20Report%20Final%20Report%202.pdf](https://response.epa.gov/sites/12353/files/170908%20MOTCO%20Harvey%20(Dry%20Weight)%20I153596-1%20UDS%20Level%20%20Report%20Final%20Report%202.pdf) , Brio Superfund Site

[https://response.epa.gov/sites/12353/files/170908%20Dixie%20OP%20Harvey%20\(Dry%20Weight\)%201153595-1%20UDS%20Level%202%20Report%20Rev\(1\)%20Final%20Report%202.pdf](https://response.epa.gov/sites/12353/files/170908%20Dixie%20OP%20Harvey%20(Dry%20Weight)%201153595-1%20UDS%20Level%202%20Report%20Rev(1)%20Final%20Report%202.pdf) . They are also posted online (https://response.epa.gov/site/doc_list.aspx?site_id=12353) and we will add all of the other as they come in to US.

We did conduct air monitoring using both ASPECT (airplane) and TAGA (mobile bus). Data summary reports are on the website also. We did not find air emissions above the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) short-term Air Monitoring Comparison Values (AMCVs).

ASPECT completed flyovers of the facilities impacted by the hurricane on September 11, 2017.

This ASPECT [report](#) covers the flights dated from 4 September – 11 September 2017 when the aircraft was flying the Arkema fire.

ASPECT Sept 11 Flight 2 [report](#)
ASPECT Sept 11 Flight 1 [report](#)
ASPECT Sept 10 Flight 2 [report](#)
ASPECT Sept 10 Flight 1 [report](#)
ASPECT Sept 9 Flight 2 [report](#)
ASPECT Sept 9 Flight 1 [report](#)
ASPECT Sept 8 Flight 2 [report](#)
ASPECT Sept 8 Flight 1 [report](#)
ASPECT Sept 7 Flight 2 [report](#)
ASPECT Sept 7 Flight 1 [report](#)
ASPECT Sept 6 Flight 2 [report](#)
ASPECT Sept 6 Flight 1 [report](#)
ASPECT Sept 5 Flight 1 [report](#)
ASPECT Sept 4 Flight 2 [report](#)
ASPECT Sept 4 Flight 1 [report](#)

The EPA completed air quality analyses using their Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) mobile monitoring system on September 20, 2017. The TAGA conducted monitoring in Houston (9/5-7 and 9/10-12), Deer Park (9/14), Baytown (9/15), Sweeny and Texas City (9/17), Beaumont, Port Arthur, Victoria, and Point Comfort (9/18), and Corpus Christi (9/19-20).

You can find all of the TAGA reports at https://response.epa.gov/site/doc_list.aspx?site_id=12353 . Here are couple of examples

<https://response.epa.gov/sites/12353/files/HH%20TAGA%20Summary%20Report%209.20.2017.pdf> and <https://response.epa.gov/sites/12353/files/HH%20TAGA%20Summary%20Report%209.19.2017.pdf> .

We did test runoff and air quality during the Arkema emergency response and data reports are posted on our website. The reports did not find significant water pollution from runoff at the plant.

https://response.epa.gov/sites/12353/files/Arkema_Surface_Water_VOCs_20170901.pdf
https://response.epa.gov/sites/12353/files/Arkema_Surface_Water_SVOCs_20170901.pdf
https://response.epa.gov/sites/12353/files/Arkema_ASPECT_Detections_20170907.pdf

I hope this information is helpful.

Best,
David

From: Kaplan, Sheila [mailto:sheila.kaplan@nytimes.com]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 4:58 PM
To: Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Clarification - EPA Hurricane Harvey

Great, many thanks! Sheila

On Mon, Sep 25, 2017 at 5:55 PM, Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov> wrote:

Sure. Give me a few minutes to pull a comprehensive email together for you.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 25, 2017, at 3:09 PM, Kaplan, Sheila <sheila.kaplan@nytimes.com> wrote:

I'd like to find out what you learned about the water and the sediment, if you took tests. What numbers did you get of the various things you were testing

for. and what did you test for?
Thanks, SK

On Mon, Sep 25, 2017 at 2:20 PM, Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Sheila,

I probably need a bit more information on what you are looking to obtain before answering your question with any accuracy. What do you mean by 'actual results'?

David

From: Kaplan, Sheila [mailto:sheila.kaplan@nytimes.com]
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 12:38 PM
To: Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov>
Subject: Re: Clarification - EPA Hurricane Harvey

David,
Can I get the actual results, or do I need to file a FOIA? If so, which office should I file the FOIA to, regional or DC. Thank you,
Sheila Kaplan

On Sun, Sep 24, 2017 at 4:16 PM, Gray, David <gray.david@epa.gov> wrote:

Greetings,

It appears that FEMA combined information from our original submission in its summary release on Friday that has created some confusion in reporting. I wanted to share this clarification with you.

We wrote:

***Hurricane Harvey Texas Response and Recovery
EPA and TCEQ First 30 Days Roll-Up of Actions (EPA fully integrated with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality in Unified Command to support these actions.)***

- *Drinking Water Assessments:*
 - *625 on-site drinking water assessments completed*
- *Waste Water Assessments:*
 - *441 on-site waste water assessments completed*
- *517 orphan containers recovered for proper storage*
- *43 National Priorities List Superfund Sites assessments completed*

FEMA wrote:

*The **Environmental Protection Agency** (EPA), working with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, completed 625 drinking water assessments and 441 waste water assessments. The agency conducted assessments of 43 Superfund sites and recovered 517 containers of unidentified, potentially hazardous material.*

You can read our latest update from Friday Sept 22 on our website at www.epa.gov/hurricane-harvey. We have also released the latest on Superfund sites and many individual site summaries.

Regarding orphan containers. EPA and our response partners have been collecting containers orphaned after the hurricane. We have been reporting these activities. Here is a copy of that update. [These are not related to Superfund clean ups.](#)

Reconnaissance/Orphan Containers: The TCEQ continues to lead in monitoring facilities that have reported spills. Unified Command has completed reconnaissance activities associated with hurricane impacts. Orphan containers, which include drums and tanks, found floating in or washed up near waterways continue to be gathered, sorted and grouped by type, prior to shipping them off for safe, proper treatment and disposal. All branches of the Unified Command have collected over 980 orphan containers. The Unified Command is preparing collected oil and hazardous materials for proper disposal. Disposal should be completed within the next three weeks. USCG and Texas General Land Office will continue to complete Vessel Recovery activities.

Best,

David

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Sheila Kaplan
Reporter, Washington Bureau
The New York Times
Office: (202) 862-0312
Cell: (415) 305-7305

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Sheila Kaplan
Reporter, Washington Bureau
The New York Times
Office: (202) 862-0312

| Cell: [\(415\) 305-7305](tel:(415)305-7305)

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Sheila Kaplan
Reporter, Washington Bureau
The New York Times
Office: (202) 862-0312
Cell: (415) 305-7305